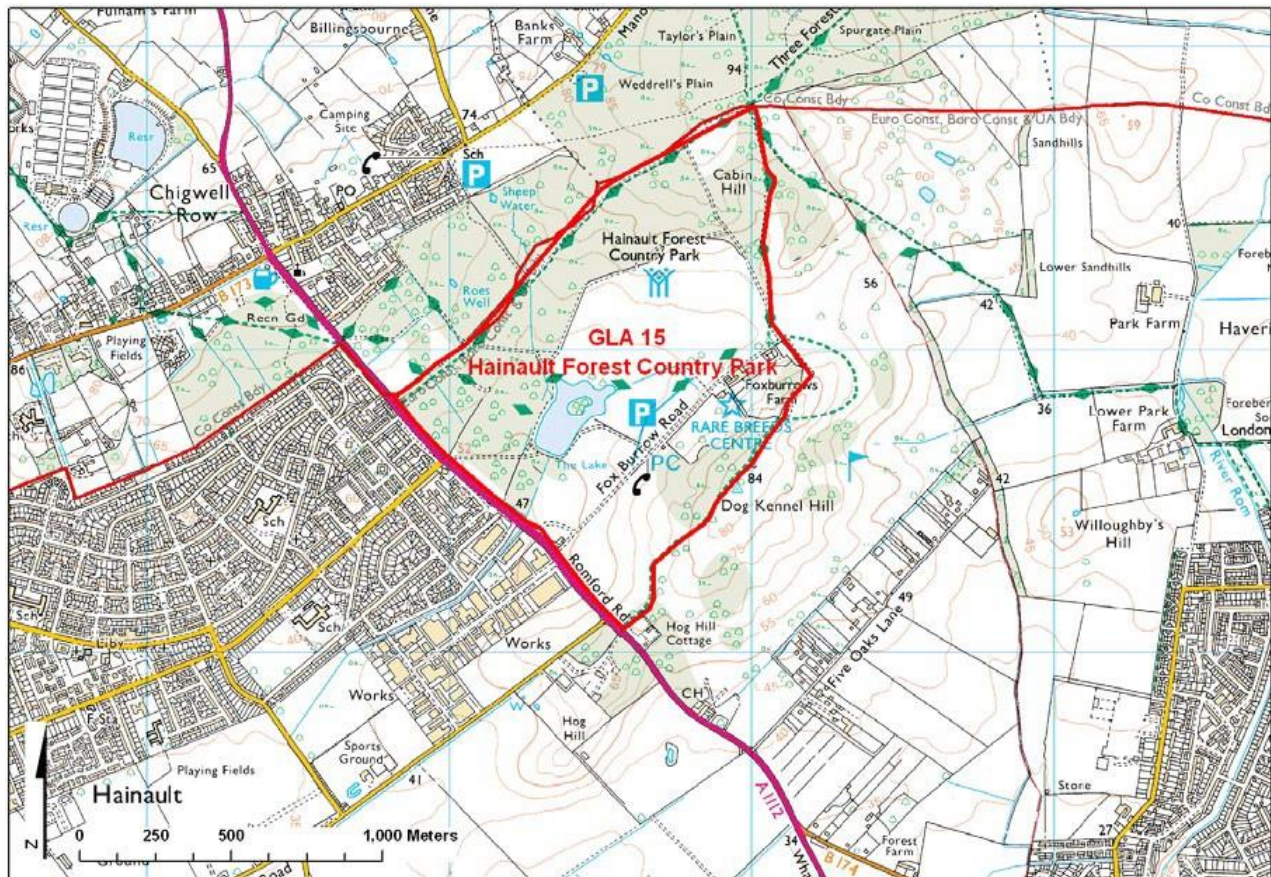


GLA 15 Hainault Forest Country Park

Grid Reference: TQ 4751 9294	Site Type: Natural exposure
Site Area (hectares): 119.45	Current use: Recreational land
Site ownership: London Borough of Redbridge	Borough: London Borough of Redbridge
Field surveyor: Joanna Brayson Latest visit: Ruth Siddall	Date: May 2011 Date: May 2019
Current geological designation: LIGS	Other designation: Metropolitan (Hainault Forest) and Borough Grade I (Hainault Country Park and Golf Course) SINCs

Site Map




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Stratigraphy and Rock Types

Time Unit: Quaternary	Rock Unit: Head
Rock Type: Clay, silt, sand and gravel	Details: Polymictic deposit comprising poorly sorted and poorly stratified deposits formed mostly by solifluction and/or hill wash and soil creep.
Time Unit: Quaternary	Rock Unit: Lowestoft Formation, Albion Glacigenic Group
Rock Type: Till	Details: Chalky till, together with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays. The till is characterised by its chalk and flint content.
Time Unit: Eocene	Rock Unit: Bagshot Formation, Bracklesham Group
Rock Type: Sand, silt and clay	Details: Pale yellow-brown to pale grey or white, locally orange or crimson, fine- to coarse-grained sand that is frequently micaceous and locally clayey, with sparse glauconite and sparse seams of gravel. The sands are commonly cross-bedded but some are laminated.
Time Unit: Eocene	Rock Unit: London Clay Formation Claygate Member at top, Thames Group
Rock Type: Clay, silt, sand	Details: Bioturbated or poorly laminated, blue-grey or grey-brown, slightly calcareous, silty to very silty clay, clayey silt and sometimes silt, with some layers of sandy clay. It commonly contains thin courses of carbonate

	concretions ('cementstone nodules') and disseminated pyrite. Claygate Member consists of thin alternations of clays, silts and fine-grained sand	
Site Description		
Large public park showing the geomorphology of Claygate Member capped London Clay. Cabin Hill offers a large variety of rock types. At the base, in the valley between Cabin Hill and Dog Kennel Hill, the lake lies at the lowest point, about 50m OD, in London Clay, surrounded by 'head' which extends up the small streams that run into the lake. On the lower part of the hill the London Clay is overlain by 'Glacial Gravel' which in turn is overlain by till deposited during the Anglian Glaciation. Toward the top of the hill, the top of the London Clay Formation remains briefly unburied by the gravel and till but this is the sandier facies known as the Claygate Member. Above this the variable sands and gravels of the Bagshot Formation cap the hill with two very small patches of Pre-Anglian Stanmore Gravel lying at the summit (both in Essex).		
Assessment of Site Value		
Geodiversity topic: Geomorphology; Lithostratigraphy.		
Access and Safety		
Aspect	Description	
Safety of access	Large open space with footpaths, some suitable for wheelchairs.	
Safety of exposure	No specific exposure.	
Permission to visit	Open access, check with park rangers before group visits.	
Current condition	Well maintained as open space.	
Current conflicting activities	None.	
Restricting conditions	None.	
Nature of exposure	No specific exposure – geomorphology.	
Culture, Heritage & Economic		
Aspect	Description	Rating
Historic, archaeological & literary associations	None.	0
Aesthetic landscape	Valuable open space.	8
History of Earth Sciences	Weathering and erosion of London Clay Formation / Claygate Member to current landscape.	4
Economic geology	None.	0
GeoScientific Merit		
Geomorphology	Landscape in relation to underlying geology.	6
Sedimentology	Underlying geology.	4
Palaeontology	None.	0
Igneous/mineral/ Metamorphic Geology	None.	0
Structural Geology	None.	0
Lithostratigraphy	Relationship between the London Clay and the Claygate Member.	6
Potential use	Higher further education; school education; on-site interpretation; on- site geotrail.	
Fragility	Weathering/erosion; natural overgrowing.	
Current Site Value		
Community	Site well used by local people for dog walking, jogging, family outings etc. Large car park, and well sign-posted walks to the summit etc. and around the lake. Café and a reasonably large children's zoo. Maps and information boards on the woodlands but nothing on the geology. The Redbridge webpage: www.redbridge.gov.uk/leisure-sport-and-the-arts/parks/hainault-forest-country-park/	10
Education		4
Geodiversity value		
LIGS:	Good feature in country park very well used by local community. Potential to add	4

information on geology on boards and/or website	
GLA 15 Hainault Forest Country Park	
	View towards London
	A general view of the wooded Cabin Hill summit area – the colour of the clay-rich sands is typical of Claygate Member
	Bagshot Sand at the summit of Cabin Hill

Photos: Ruth Siddall, May 2019